

in the partnership between GNF and the city that led to the establishment of Atlanta's first clinic for homeless.

In 1985, Mary Long became the Vice President for Legislative Affairs for the Arthritis Foundation and was later promoted to the Foundation's Group Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy in 1996. In addition, she was elected to the American Nurses Association (ANA) Board of Directors and served as ANA's Second Vice President.

While Mary has made tremendous contributions to health care issues, she also made great strides in other areas. For example, she was active in the movement to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in Georgia. She has an extensive record of service at the local, regional, and national levels. Her work has transcended through organizations such as the YMCA, Atlanta Food Bank, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, and the Atlanta Women's Foundation. She has received numerous awards for her groundbreaking innovation, actions, and creative thoughts. As an active member of her church, Trinity United Methodist in Atlanta, she has held onto her faith the entire journey.

As a friend of long standing, I have had the great privilege of witnessing Mary's work and the impact she has had on our state and nation. She has established a legacy of providing support for underrepresented groups on health care issues and I am very grateful for her tireless advocacy to improve the health care system in Georgia as well as her steadfast sup-

port for patients and their families. A woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise in her field are unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and my wife, Vivian, in honoring an outstanding citizen, advocate, and cherished friend, Ms. Mary N. Long, for the inspiring life that she leads. We extend our best wishes to her as she, her family, and friends celebrate her 75th birthday.

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HONORING KAYLA MICHELLE  
RIGGS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious young woman, Kayla Michelle Riggs. Kayla has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Kayla Michelle Riggs was born on May 16, 1992 in Vicksburg, Mississippi to Jeffrey and Sherry Riggs. She attended her Elementary, Junior High School and High School in the Vicksburg/Warren School District.

Kayla graduated from Vicksburg High School in 2010 and went on to attend Northwest Community College in Oxford, MS for

one year. She transferred to the University of Mississippi in 2011 and Graduated with a Bachelor of Science in the field of Criminal Justice in 2014.

In 2014, Kayla started her criminal justice career with the Mississippi Gaming Commission and started to work on her Master's Degree from Delta State University. In April 2016 she resigned from the Mississippi Gaming Commission to work on her Master's Degree.

In July of 2016, Kayla join the United States Army in the military occupation skill of Infantry and was placed in the delayed entry program until the United States Army could set a date for the first integrated class of women in the infantry military occupational specialty. In December of 2016, she finished her Masters Work in the field of Criminology and Social Science.

On January 30, 2017, Kayla reported to the United States Army reception station on Sandhill at Fort Benning, Georgia. Then on February 2017, she started in the first enlisted integrated female infantry basic training and advanced individual training class. She received the Infantry Blue Cord on May 18 and graduated on May 19, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kayla Michelle Riggs for being a part of a historic class, and her dedication to serving our great Country and strong desire to achieve.